REMARKS

In the December 21, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,414,609 to Zukawa et al. ("Zukawa"). To expedite prosecution of the present case and obtained allowance of claims 1, 3-6 and 8, Applicants hereby cancel claims 9-18 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
March 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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